Twelve Years' Work of the Ordnance Survey, 1887 to 1899: Disussion

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indispensable. On general grounds also its value is steadily increasing, in view of the principle which appears now, with the sanction and encouragement of most of our modern members of the House of Commons, to be in course of rapid application to those branches of the Civil Service which have most Parliamentary votes—the principle, namely, that the general tax-payer ought to pay to his civil servants of those branches the maximum of pay and pension without much regard to the value of the work rendered in return.

5. *Future Work of the Survey.*

There is still very important survey work remaining to be completed. I should myself place first in importance the completion of the edition of the revised maps of Great Britain, with the hills in brown, followed by similar work in Ireland; until this is done, as has been already mentioned, the 1-inch revisions cannot be considered complete. Next in importance, I should place the completion of the revised 4-mile and 10-mile maps in outline of the United Kingdom. As to the 1-inch coloured maps of England and Wales, they are mainly required only as military maps of the district south of a line running east and west through Cardigan, and it still remains to be seen whether they will be popular with the public, while as to the hill-engraving of the 1-inch map of England and Wales, its rate of progress and date of completion should, as has been stated above, be made entirely dependent on good quality being ensured. As to the large-scale revisions, the heavy expenditure on them will always require that close attention should be paid to the rate of progress.

But as to the completion not only of the work now in hand, but also of any new work which the Board of Agriculture and the Treasury may sanction for execution by the Ordnance Survey, I cannot be wrong in assuming that in the hands of my successor, Colonel Johnston, R.E., the reputation of the Survey for good work honestly carried out will be fully maintained.

Colonel JOHNSTON: I have only a very few remarks to make on the excellent paper we have heard. I must say, in the first instance, that I am very glad it has been read, as it could not have been in better hands, and the present is a very good opportunity for reading it. The Survey, until a few years ago, was concerned mainly with large-scale work; of late years, more especially during Sir John Farquharson's time, a very great deal of attention has been paid to the small or geographical work of the Survey, with which this Society is more especially interested. I may say I fully endorse the view of my predecessor as to the importance of this small-scale work. An advantage that I hope may arise out of this paper is, that we may get suggestions as to improvements in the survey maps, as the department has always shown itself willing to listen to suggestions or criticisms as to the maps produced. We shall be very glad to receive any to-day from members of this Society; especially I shall be glad to receive them as regards the

coloured maps, to which Sir John Farquharson referred. The coloured map will very shortly be completed south of a line, speaking roughly, running from Ipswich to Cardigan. A considerable number of sheets are already published, but so far the sale has not been very great. It may be that the public do not know of them. I would like to remark on one or two points raised. Sir John Farquharson referred to the dead weight of the town surveys; in the past that has been a dead weight on the Survey, and I am bound to say, if the revision and resurvey of towns had continued, it would have prevented the Survey doing much other valuable work. At present we are not severely pressed in that way; Carlisle and Cardiff are nearly completed, and Aberdeen and Dundee are both in progress. As regards Ireland, the difficulty in the resurvey is very great. The fourth division, to which Sir John Farquharson referred, has not been formed owing to the calls on the Ordnance Survey due to the present war. As soon as it is over, and we get fully established again, I hope the fourth Irish division will be formed. On the other hand, the revision of Great Britain has so far progressed, that it has been possible to transfer one division from England to Ireland. As regards hill engraving, I may say that the measures taken by Sir John Farquharson have been extended, and I hope that, without any loss of quality, the 1-inch hill map will be completed by 1902, or very soon afterwards. As far as I am concerned, there is no intention of sacrificing quality in any way. It may be of interest to indicate what the Survey has done since Sir John Farquharson's time. As far as the large scale is concerned, practically the whole of England is within the twenty-years limit; that is, no appreciable number of counties have surveys over twenty years old. Scotland is not quite so satisfactory, but the few counties with older surveys are being taken up. The 1-inch revised map of Great Britain was completed last year. We are getting on with the 1-inch revised map of Ireland as fast as possible; the work has been extremely heavy. The present is based on an old survey, and the alterations are extremely heavy; the field work, drawing, and engraving have been very slow, but a quarter of the country has been done. The work is being pushed on as rapidly as possible. In England the 1-inch hills have been already alluded to; we have prepared revised hill sheets for a third of Scotland, and I hope in a year the whole of Scotland will be published. As the revision of the 1-inch map of Ireland is completed, so will the revised maps with hills be completed; it will go on *pari passu*. The revised 4-mile map is being engraved as fast as is consistent with good work. I hope within a year's time it will be practically completed. Engraving the 4-mile Scotland has been commenced, and that will go on as rapidly as possible. Ireland will follow. It has not been possible to do anything with the 10-mile map yet, as it has been thought better to concentrate our efforts on the 1-inch and 4-inch scales. There is one other work I should refer to; it has been heavy—that is, the work for the War Office. Ordnance Survey officers and men have been sent to South Africa for survey work, in addition to others for ordinary Corps work, and the result is we are extremely short. In other ways we have been drawn upon, by men of the reserves and volunteers being called out for army service, and we have had very heavy demands by the War Office for maps; so far we have been able to meet them. I don't think I have anything more to say, except that there is every intention on the part of the Ordnance Survey that its reputation for accuracy and good work shall be maintained.

Sir CHARLES WILSON: I wish to express my concurrence in Sir John Farquharson's excellent epitome of the work of the Survey to the present time, and to say how perfectly I concur in his estimate of the services rendered by General Cooke to the Survey, which have never been sufficiently appreciated. I should also wish to mention what Sir John has not been able to allude to himself, that he

conducted the affairs of the Survey during his period of office in an admirable way. He had many difficulties to contend with, and I think he steered through all of them in a most successful manner. One difficulty the Survey has had to contend with in any new departure has been that of getting people in the different departments of the Government to understand what maps are and what their uses may be. As long ago as 1883, when I had charge of the Irish Survey, I was struck by the great expense to which landed proprietors in Ireland were put in selling their property. They often had to have 25-inch surveys made for the purposes of the court, and had to pay the whole of the cost themselves. I then advised the commencement of a 25-inch survey of Ireland, and was strongly supported by the boundary commissioner, Sir John Ball Green, and by the authorities of the law courts, but the Government would have nothing to do with a large-scale survey in Ireland. When I was appointed director-general I again took up the question, and with very great difficulty was able to persuade the Treasury that a 25-inch survey was absolutely necessary to enable the terms of the Land Acts for Ireland to be carried out. Exactly the same difficulty occurred afterwards with regard to the revision. It is impossible to get officials to recognize the absolute necessity of having accurate maps. At first only a small sum was allowed for revision; but gradually, when questions were asked in Parliament, the vote was increased, and at last continuous revision was authorized. I am glad that such excellent progress has been made in the revision. I am quite sure, from what I know of the present director-general, that the reputation of the Survey will not suffer in his hands, and that he will meet any new departure or any questions that may arise in the best possible way.

LORD BELHAVEN : Sir John Farquharson said the Local Government Board did not make much use of the Ordnance Survey maps, but certainly those who work under them use the Ordnance Survey maps on every possible occasion. For instance, the County Council to which I belong: we have to pay for them ourselves.

MR. HUGH LEONARD : I may be permitted to say that I think, if the Survey Department took a little more trouble in making known what maps they have for sale, there would be a much larger sale of their maps than there is now. I have been connected with maps for many years, and was not aware that there is a coloured 1-inch map published until to-day. We have had a great deal of information given to us with which I was not acquainted, and I think if any reasonable means were taken to let the public know what is going on, the sale would be increased, and the maps would thus be made more useful to the country, which has to pay for them in the end.

MR. DOUGLAS FRESHFIELD : Having represented the Royal Geographical Society eight years ago, when the Council made representations regarding the Ordnance Survey maps, I think that we, who belong to the Society, may congratulate ourselves on the very great extent to which the recommendations I was authorized on behalf of the Society to make have been carried out. In the important matter of the use of colour in maps, it appears that great progress has been made. We have heard that there is a very small sale for coloured maps; this arises from want of knowledge by the public. I am convinced that the Ordnance Survey Department are now doing everything they can under the conditions in which they live; they have the same enemy that Lord Salisbury lately mentioned—the Treasury, and the Treasury is encouraged in its traditional policy by the extreme apathy and want of knowledge of the use of maps, which is not confined to the Government departments, as one of the speakers suggested, but extends through the whole nation.

DR. A. J. HERBERTSON : In the first place, I would suggest that it should be
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compulsory for every head post-office to have an Ordnance map of the district framed and hung up on the walls. In the second place, it would be desirable if the Ordnance Survey could issue maps to schools at a cheap rate, in the way the American Government has arranged, where the maps are sold to teachers for school purposes at the cost of printing and paper; I think that would contribute to the popularization of maps, and would very much help all schoolmasters, who find the expense of buying maps very heavy.

Sir JOHN FARQUHARSON: I had something to say to you about the sales of Ordnance maps, but I began to think the paper was very long, and perhaps you would be getting tired of it. Roughly, it was that the Survey had had the sales in charge since 1897. Formerly it was in the hands of three agents, as you know—Stanford for England, Menzies for Scotland, and Hodges and Figgis for Ireland; but the Ordnance Survey took it up in 1897, and the results of that change have been distinctly successful. The value of the increase of sales was, after two years, about thirty-three per cent. But another branch, that of sales through the post-office, has distinctly failed. I believe the reason to be, as is stated in the paper, that the Postmaster-General offers inadequate remuneration for the complicated work the postmasters have to do. I think that you can get the Ordnance maps at a post-office in a fairly large town, if there is no local agent there for the sale of the maps; but the postmasters have to write such complicated forms that very often they make mistakes, and it is as troublesome to the Southampton people as it is to the postmasters themselves. Then, I think, the postmasters are only paid the fraction of a penny, in the same way as with money orders, and the result is that the postmasters don't care for the work. As to making the maps known, I think you will find that in places where visitors go, the local bookseller has a local map of his own that he wants to sell, and if you ask for a map of the district you will seldom be shown an Ordnance map, but a rough map that he has had compiled himself.

The PRESIDENT: The meeting will wish to pass a vote of thanks to Sir John Farquharson for reading his paper, and for his kindness in bringing these interesting foreign survey maps here, which he will allow to remain for a few days, so that a number of people who are interested in them can examine them in detail. The most interesting part of the paper to us, and all those who care for the spread of geographical knowledge, is the paragraph on the sale of maps. It is much to be deplored that the system of sale through the local post-offices has failed, owing to the obstruction and the want of interest in the matter at the General Post-office. Of course, if the postmasters were properly remunerated, the sales by that means, I cannot doubt, would be very large indeed. Since I was examined by the departmental committee of the Board of Agriculture, I have had a register kept of the number of people who come to examine the Ordnance Survey maps in this room. It is very large comparatively; it goes on increasing year by year, and I have very little doubt that most of those who come here afterwards buy the maps. It would not be of much avail, I think, to advertise very largely, as the advertisements would not be seen. I don't see any means of making the existence of coloured maps better known than those used by the different agents of the Survey Department. I now ask you to pass a vote of thanks to Sir John Farquharson for his very interesting paper, and for kindly showing us these foreign maps.